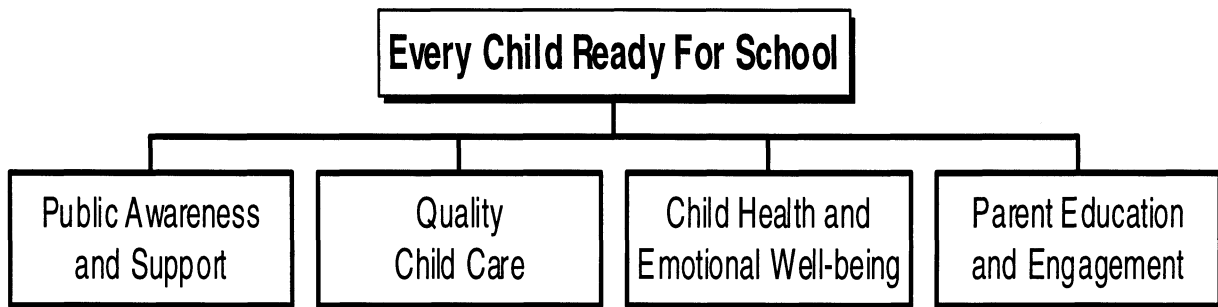


EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE



PROGRAM MISSION:

To assure that there is a comprehensive and coordinated system of services and supports to ensure that young children have the social/emotional, physical, language, and cognitive *skills* to be successful in kindergarten and life

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- Young children ready for school
- Children and adults who are physically and mentally healthy
- Children safe in their home, school, and community

COMMUNITY OUTCOME MEASURES

	FY01 ACTUAL	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 BUDGET	FY05 CE REC
<u>Young children ready for school</u>					
Percentage of entering Montgomery County Public Schools kindergarten students who scored in the "full readiness" category of the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) screening ^a	^b 47	61	57	60	63
<u>Healthy children</u>					
Percentage of Montgomery County two-year olds with completed immunizations	77	86	^c 89	90	90

Notes:

^aThe MMSR is a school readiness framework designed to help teachers improve assessment and instructional techniques to support young children's readiness for school. The MMSR includes the following components: assessment, instruction, family communications, and articulation among programs.

^bFY01 was a pilot year.

^cEstimate.

EXPLANATION:

The Early Childhood Initiative is a unique public/private partnership that is working toward the shared vision that:

All children from before birth to age five will attain their full potential through quality early care and education, participation in appropriate programs, and the commitment of their families and communities.

Montgomery County has the potential to become a community of neighborhoods that welcomes babies, supports young children's development, and engages all segments of the populace as partners to ensure that our youngest citizens get the care and nurturance they need to build a solid foundation for future success. The Initiative is a broad-based effort to increase public awareness about the importance of the first five years of children's lives and to implement research-based strategies to support young children's healthy cognitive, social/emotional, motor, and physical development.

PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services - Children, Youth, and Family Services; Montgomery County Council; Board of Education and Montgomery County Public Schools; Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families; Montgomery County Public Libraries; Montgomery County Roundtable for Education; Montgomery County Commission on Child Care; Montgomery County Department of Recreation; Montgomery County United Way; Montgomery County Community Action Board; hospitals; numerous private community organizations/providers of services; Maryland Department of Education; Maryland Department of Human Resources; Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Governor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families.

MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: Montgomery County Early Childhood Comprehensive Services Plan; The Children's Agenda; Children First; Federal, State, and local statutes and/or policies and procedures.